

## **AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:**

The listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings of claims in the application:

### **LISTING OF THE CLAIMS**

1-9. (Cancelled)

10. (Currently Amended) The splice connector of claim ~~[[8]]~~21, wherein the first housing includes a first opening interposed between the first and second cable seats ~~receptacles~~ and the second housing includes a second opening that aligns with the first opening to receive a fastener to selectively attach the first housing to the second housing.

11. (Currently Amended) The splice connector of claim ~~[[8]]~~21, further comprising third and fourth terminals received in the second housing and spaced from one another in a direction generally parallel to the second direction.

12. (Cancelled)

13. (Currently Amended) The splice connector of claim ~~[[12]]~~21, further comprising catches formed on an inner surface of the slot.

14. (Cancelled)

15. (Currently Amended) The splice connector of claim ~~[[8]]~~21, further comprising a boss extending from one of the first housing and the second housing interposed between the seat~~seable~~ ~~receptacles~~.

16. (Currently Amended) A method for splicing two electrical cables, wherein each cable includes at least two conductive wires and insulation material around each wire, with a splice connector having a clam-shell housing, the method comprising:

positioning first and second cables in respective first and second seats in a first housing portion of the clam-shell housing, the first housing portion including a hoop-shaped

appendage defining an elongated slot;

rotating a second housing portion of the clam-shell housing, which is attached to the first housing portion via a pin received in the elongated slot~~sliding hinge~~, in relation to the first housing portion;

at least substantially linearly moving the pin of ~~at least one of the first housing portion and the second housing portion in the slot of the first relation to the other housing~~ portion; and

piercing the insulation material of the first and second cable with an IDC terminal received in one of the housings to contact a first of the at least two wires in each cable.

17. (Original) The method of claim 16, further comprising piercing the insulation material of the first and second cable with another IDC terminal received in the other of the housings to contact a second of the at least two wires in each cable.

18. (Original) The method of claim 17, further comprising piercing the insulation material of the first and second cable with another IDC terminal received in one of the housings to contact the first of the at least two wires in each cable.

19. (Cancelled)

20. (Cancelled)

21. (Currently Amended) A splice connector comprising:  
a first housing defining first and second ~~seats~~cable receptacles;  
a second housing defining third and fourth seats, when the connector is closed the first seat being aligned with the third seat and the second seat being aligned with the fourth seat;

a discontinuous hoop-shaped appendage extending from ~~connected to~~ the first housing and defining an elongated slot and a side opening, the elongated slot having a height about equal to a distance between furthest points of the first seat and the third seat when the connector is closed;

~~a second housing;~~

a pin connected to the second housing, the pin being selectively received in the elongated slot and having a diameter approximately equal to the diameter of the side opening; and

first and second terminals spaced from one another and received in the first housing, each terminal including a first prong aligned with the first seat cable-receptacle and a second prong aligned with the second seat cable-receptacle.

22. (Previously presented) The splice connector of claim 21, further comprising a resilient clip extending from the first housing and a catch extending from an external surface of the second housing, wherein the clip cooperates with the catch to selectively attach the first housing to the second housing.

23. (Cancelled)